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EDITORIAL: *Keeping Art Alive*

OUR OPINION: BEACH TRIES CREATIVE PROJECT TO PROTECT ARTISTS

History is known to repeat itself: Greenwich Village, Key West, Coconut Grove – and now South Beach. The artists that help create and popularize a cultural community often are forced to leave because of rising prices. But Miami Beach Mayor David Dermer's proposed Cultural Arts Neighborhood District Overlay (CANDO) is moving forward in an effort to reverse this pattern. Spearheaded by a blue-ribbon committee, this initiative is taking an exemplary interdisciplinary approach to reestablish South Beach's artist community.

CANDO is Miami Beach's main project for next year. The district is bounded by the ocean in the east, Meridian Avenue on the West, Lincoln Road to the South and 24th Street and Dade Boulevard to the north. It is an innovative approach to reestablishing the area's artistic origins.

The project will hopefully sprout small businesses such as bookstores, art

galleries, frame stores, etc., as well as provide affordable living and work space for artists. The area is becoming too expensive, yet people in the cultural world still want to work and live there. The city wants to make this feasible with financial incentives and benefits.

The blue-ribbon committee represents a broad range of personalities, including developers, property owners, representatives from cultural institutes and struggling artists. Their first meeting is Sept. 12 and is open to the public.

By designating an area as a distinct district, city officials hope to create even more benefits for Miami Beach. In addition to helping the artists who helped popularize the area, the new marketing program will promote the area as an attraction itself.

Though the process will be a long one, we wish them the best of luck in trying and look forward to seeing progress.